



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS04:054

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, August 12, 2004

Contact: Lauren Hersh
916-653-6573

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Announces Creation of New Poll Worker Training Task Force -

Task Force to develop statewide standards for training election volunteers

SACRAMENTO, CA-- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today announced the creation of his new Task Force on Uniform Poll Worker Training Standards.

“Our elections process will be well served by the recommendations of this Task Force,” said Secretary of State Kevin Shelley. “The work of this group will help ensure the highest levels of training to those who work on the front lines in our elections.”

The Task Force is created pursuant to 2003’s Senate Bill 610 (Escutia), sponsored by Secretary of State Shelley, which requires the Secretary of State to appoint a task force of at least twelve members to study and recommend “uniform guidelines for the training of precinct board members (poll workers).” The primary focus of the Task Force is to create a set of uniform standards that will ensure that poll workers are properly trained in handling emergencies and the proper use of election equipment within each county. These standards will also serve to provide instruction in serving voters who are disabled or do not speak English as their primary language.

SB 610 requires the Task Force to include the chief elections officers from the two largest counties, Conny McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk of Los Angeles, and Steve Rodermund, Orange County Registrar of Voters. It must also contain the chief elections officers from the two smallest counties, Barbara Jones, Alpine County Clerk, and Mary Jungi, of Sierra County Clerk-Recorder. Shelley named two additional county elections officials to serve on the Task Force: Freddie Oakley, Yolo County Clerk-Recorder, and Stephen Weir, Contra Costa County Clerk. Shelley named Oakley as the Chair of the Task Force.

The law requires the Secretary of State to appoint at least six additional people to the Task Force, who have “elections expertise.” These individuals include:

Ernest “Chuck” Ayala, Federal Liaison, AARP, San Francisco
Kathay Feng, Voting Rights Program Director, Asian Pacific American Legal Center
(APALC), Los Angeles

-more-

Maria de la Luz Garcia, Director of Voter Engagement, National Association of Latino
Elected Officials, Los Angeles
Bonnie Hamlin, League of Women Voters, Oakland
Luana Horstkotte, Staff Attorney, Protection and Advocacy, Inc., Sacramento
Elliott Petty, National Project Director, Neighbor to Neighbor Youth and Voter
Empowerment Program, Los Angeles
Phil Ting, Executive Director, Asian Law Caucus, San Francisco
Dr. Geraldine Washington, President, Los Angeles NAACP, Los Angeles

The first meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on August 25th, 2004, in the Multipurpose Room of the Secretary of State's Office, 1500 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Three additional meetings of the Task Force will also be held at the same location at the following dates and times:

Tuesday, August 31 – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday, September 14 – 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Tuesday, September 21 – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

All meetings will be open to the public.